

Buffalo

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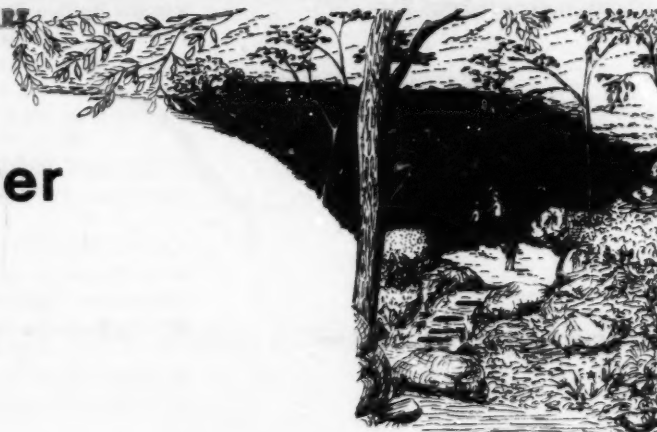
National River
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Dayhikes at Buffalo River

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Buffalo National River offers opportunities for both overnight back-packing and for day hikes.

MAPS

The park brochure contains a map showing road access to hiking areas and the trailheads for established trails.

Sixteen U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps cover the entire river.

These maps may be purchased at park headquarters, and seasonally at the information stations at Pruitt, Silver Hill, and Buffalo Point. They may be ordered directly from Eastern National Park & Monument Association at Buffalo National River.

READER
FICHE

best copy available

LOST VALLEY
(Ponca & Osage SW quadrangles,
USGS topographic maps)

Set in a hardwood forest, this trail begins at Lost Valley campground and dead-ends in a cave 1 1/2 miles up the valley. The first mile is level and easy hiking, then the trail climbs steeply to the cave. Take a flashlight if you go into the cave. It is about 200' long, ending in a large room with a 35' waterfall.

The trail passes waterfalls, a creek, cliffs, a large bluff shelter and a natural bridge. (Clark Creek, as most tributaries to the Buffalo River, tends to dry up in the latter half of most years.) Wildflowers are abundant in spring.

SELF-GUIDING BROCHURE AVAILABLE
AT TRAILHEAD (\$.25)

HEMMED-IN-HOLLOW
(Ponca quadrangle)

The trail to this box canyon and 175' waterfall is reached most easily from the river. There, a sign is visible to floaters and the hike to the waterfall is slightly less than a mile. A branch of the trail takes you back to the river at the mouth of Sneeds Creek, then follows the river downstream to your starting point. (Sneeds Creek offers another hike along an old wagon road which passes two historic buildings.)

There are three non-river routes to the falls. The hike is more than three miles one-way down the old Center Point Road (now a trail off Highway 43, three miles north of Ponca), or from Kyles Landing, or from the Steel Creek launch area. Hiking downstream from Steel Creek or upstream from Kyles Landing requires fording the river several times and is not possible during high water periods.

OZARK — PRUITT
(Jasper quadrangle)

Through the upland forest and along the river, this 2 1/2 mile trail connects Ozark Campground and the Pruitt Information Station. It is easy going, quiet, and a good area for wildflowers.



GILBERT TO RED BLUFF (Marshall and Maumee quadrangles)	The trail follows an old railroad bed for about two miles along the river. It offers excellent views of the river and bluffs.	
BUFFALO POINT (Cozahome quadrangle)	A system of trails totalling about seven miles is in the Buffalo Point area. A map is available at the Information Station. Trailheads are located in the campground and along the road between the Information Station and the restaurant on Road 268. OVERLOOK TRAIL provides a view of the river after a fairly easy 1/2 mile hike. AMPHITHEATER TRAIL (1.1 mile) connects the cabins and ranger offices and Information Station with the campground and amphitheater below. FOREST TRAIL (0.6 mi.) connects Loop A of campground and group camping area.	INDIAN ROCKHOUSE TRAIL is a three mile round-trip self-guiding trail leading to a large bluff shelter once inhabited by Indians. It is downhill going, but fairly strenuous coming back. An additional one mile steep and rough side trail leads to Bat Cave. SELF-GUIDING BROCHURE AVAILABLE AT TRAILHEAD (\$.50)
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Permits: No permits are required for hiking in Buffalo National River. Trash and Sanitation: Pack out all your trash. Receptacles are provided at most trailheads.	Pets: Must be kept under physical restraint or on a 6' leash. Horses: Are not allowed on trails developed for hikers.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Hike with a friend, and always let someone know where you are going and when you will return.

Never climb up, down or across the face of any bluff without proper equipment and specialized skills. Buffalo River bluffs are composed of sandstone and limestone, and often are crumbly.

Caving is similar to climbing in that it requires special skills and equipment. Stay out of caves unless you are properly equipped. Some caves in the park are closed during certain times of the year to protect nursing and/or hibernating bats. Check with a Park Ranger before entering any cave. There are numerous old abandoned wells and mineshafts in the park. Many are dangerous. Your best bet is to avoid them completely.

YOU CAN HELP

Trail development is still in the early stages at Buffalo National River. Eventually a system of trails will run almost the entire length of the park. There will also be trails into some of the side canyons, and loop trails at developed areas. At present, construction of new trails depends almost entirely upon volunteers. Anyone interested in joining the fun or donating funds should contact:

Volunteer Coordinator
Buffalo National River
P.O. Box 1173
Harrison, AR 72602-1173

Phone: (501) 741-5443

